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## **National Intelligence Daily**

Wednesday 17 November 1982

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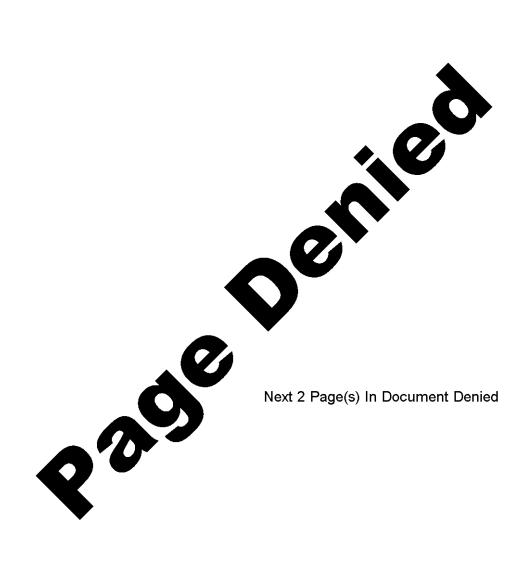


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3	FRANCE - US - MIDDLE EAST: Policy Views
3	The French have mixed feelings about supporting US policy in the Middle East, but for now there appears to be a consensus-shared by President Mitterrandfavoring continued backing for US diplomatic efforts.
2	a senior Foreign Ministry official recently told visiting US Congressmen that the French are seeking a broader and more durable solution to the Palestinian problem than the one they believe is envisioned by the US. The official asserted that the Israelis would have to pull out of Lebanon and that the Palestinians would have to be involved in any regional settlement—even if this were to lead to the establishment of the independent state advocated by the PLO.
3	Comment: Despite their reservations, the French now believe that their interests in the Middle East are best served by cooperation with the US. They appear unlikely to promote any initiatives of their own unless they conclude that the US initiative has failed.
3	France still wants to remain in touch with the PLO, but it has to avoid the appearance of cooperating too closely with the organization. Paris worries that this would risk alienating both Lebanese President Jumayyil and the US, which it recognizes is the only power that can hope to move the Israelis toward a settlement.

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